



Anguillicola crassus

Eel parasite

Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact

- Major threat to European eel fisheries (Hoglund and Thomas, 1992)
- In U.S., measures to stem the spread of parasite will affect aquaculturists
- Growers, importers and exporters face the potential for monetary loss from quarantine and crop destruction (Fries et al., 1996)

2. Invasive Potential

- Introduced to western Europe by infected Asian eels imported for consumption and aquacultural restocking (Peters & Hartmann, 1986; Belpaire et al., 1989a)
- A factor contributing to the rapid spread of *A. crassus* is that it is not particular about habitat or transfer hosts (Taraschewski et al., 1987)
- Capable of surviving in eels in freshwater, brackish water, and seawater (Kennedy and Fitch, 1990)
- Introduction of even a few individuals of the parasite to new geographic through careless import, export and restocking practices can result in exponential spread of the parasite (De Charleroy et al, 1990)

3. Geographic Extent

- Appeared throughout Europe and parts of the US
- Regionally pervasive

4. Management Difficulty

- Chemical control measures have failed
- Best approach is through legislation regulating import and export of eels



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: SE Asia as a natural parasite of the Japanese eel
2. Introduced: Atlantic Coast, Gulf of Mexico (not Florida) - potential
3. Habitats
 - Lakes, water courses, brackish water, marine habitats, vector
 - 33 fish species in 10 families, many species of crustaceans & 1 snail serve as intermediate hosts

Invasion Pathways

1. Live seafood trade - Asian eels
2. Aquaculture and Mariculture activities
3. Natural spread

Non-Native Locations

1. 41- Virginian
2. 42- Carolinian
3. 43- Northern Gulf of Mexico

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in ecol-*

ogy and the environment. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.

2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. http://www.nobanis.org/files/factsheets/Anguicola_crassus.pdf
4. <http://www.europe-aliens.org/speciesFactsheet.do?speciesId=50118>